29th January 1934]

Local Self-Government

Petitions presented regarding the Salem District Board.

* 508 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received three petitions from certain members of the Salem District Board in March, April and July;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government have not yet taken any action on the first two petitions but issued a Government Order on the 23rd August 1933 only with reference to the petition received in July;

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representation from any of the petitioners protesting against the alleged insult to the petitioners implied in the Government Order and what action the Government have taken on it; and

(*d*) why the Government did not instruct the Inspector of Local Boards to investigate the matter mentioned in the petitions as requested by the signatories?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Orders have issued in G.O.[a] No. 3402, L. & M., dated 23rd August 1933, on the petition received in July 1933. The other petitions are under consideration.

(*c*) A personal representation has been made and with reference thereto the Government have issued orders in G.O.[a] No. 4920, dated 28th November 1933, copy of which as well as a copy of G.O. No. 3402, L. & M., dated 23rd August 1933, are placed on the table.

(*d*) The Government did not consider it necessary.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"In view of the fact that the Government have found that the President, District Board, did not keep proper records and it has necessitated the issue of a Government Order that he should keep records in proper order, will the Government be pleased to state why they think that no action is necessary?"

Mr. E. Conran Smith:—"I believe the practice in many local bodies is to record the proceedings of meetings from notes made at the meetings. The Government were satisfied that in this case no further action was necessary."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are justified in making insinuations against the petitioners when there were no such allegations in the petition?"

Mr. E. Conran Smith:—"I take it that the hon. Member is referring to the allegation referred to in the first Government Order. That allegation was made personally by the hon. Member himself."

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* [a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 110-112 infra.